



Environmental Bulletin

Volume 13, Number 14
September 4, 2002

from the Savannah River Site

First to Receive Approval of Delisting Petition

SRS Receives Record Waste Decision

The Savannah River Site (SRS) has received federal approval from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for the delisting of the M Area Vitrified Waste effective August 21, 2002. This is the first approval of a delisting petition for a vitrified mixed waste. A mixed waste is a combination of a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) hazardous waste and a radioactive waste.

One criterion the EPA uses to identify hazardous waste involves specific chemicals or process residues that are believed to pose a threat to human health or the environment if improperly disposed. These wastes are identified in a series of lists, and therefore become known as "listed" waste.

The original waste was wastewater treatment sludge from electroplating operations, which is a listed F006 RCRA hazardous waste. The plating line waste also contained significant amounts of depleted uranium, making it a mixed waste.

To meet the EPA delisting treatment standards, the waste had to be stabilized to control the possible leaching of hazardous constituents. Over 670,000 gallons of stored waste sludge were vitrified into the form of glass gems known as ovoids, which are stored in 71-gallon drums. Through vitrification, SRS was able to reduce the volume of stored waste to approximately 210,000 gallons, for a volume reduction of approximately 69 percent. Treatment of the waste was completed during February 1999.

The vitrification process used to treat the M Area wastes was developed by the Savannah River Technology Center (SRTC) to treat low-level mixed wastes. The low-level, mixed waste vitrification process was based on the technology and science that had been developed by SRTC to stabilize the SRS high-level radioactive waste at the Defense Waste Processing Facility.

The approval for delisting this waste means the DOE-SR's petitioned waste is no longer a hazardous waste under RCRA. The treated waste was shown to meet the Land Disposal Re-

strictions (LDR) limits for treated wastes, therefore, the storage of this waste is no longer prohibited. It will be disposed of in a low-level radioactive waste facility.

Volume reduction, combined with excluding the waste from hazardous waste management regulations, will significantly reduce overall disposal costs, resulting in cost savings of approximately \$7.0 million.

Want More Information?

For more information on either the vitrification process or the delisting petition for the M Area Vitrified Waste, contact:

Jim Moore

Westinghouse Savannah River Company

Savannah River Site, 742-A,

Aiken, SC 29808

telephone: 800-249-8155

e-mail: jim02.moore@srs.gov.

SRS Environmental Report To Be Issued

The Savannah River Site Environmental Report for 2001 will soon be available. The report, which has been produced for more than 40 years, highlights significant environmental programs and efforts at SRS and assesses the impact of site operations on the public and the environment. It also confirms compliance with environmental standards and requirements. This year's document is on a CD enclosed in a summary pamphlet.

If you are interested in securing a copy of the Savannah River Site Environmental Report for 2001, submit your request by:

Phone: 800-249-8155

Email: jim02.moore@srs.gov

Write: Jim Moore

Westinghouse Savannah River Company

Savannah River Site, 742-A,

Aiken, SC 29808

MAILING LIST

Name _____

e-mail address _____

mailing address _____

____ Add to mail list

____ Remove from mail list

____ Correct my address

Mail to:

SRS Environmental Bulletin
Savannah River Site
Building 742-A
Aiken, S.C. 29808



The SRS Environmental Bulletin

For more information on this or other
environmental and compliance activities at
SRS, please contact:

Jim Moore	Lyddie Broussard
Westinghouse Savannah	Westinghouse Savannah
River Company	River Company
Public Involvement	Public Involvement
Aiken, S.C. 29808	Aiken, S.C. 29808
(800) 249-8155	(803) 725-7169
e-mail: jim02.moore@srs.gov	

The SRS Environmental Bulletin
Savannah River Site
Building 742-A
Aiken, S.C. 29808

